

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract with the following rewritten Abstract. A clean version of the Abstract is attached to this paper.

Abstract

The disclosure relates to a process for purifying crude caprolactam. The process involves converting a first mixture of 6-amino capronitrile and water to a second mixture of caprolactam ammonia, water, high boilers and low boilers using a catalyst. The ammonia is removed from the second mixture to obtain a third mixture. Water is removed from the third mixture to give crude caprolactam, high boiler and low boilers. Purified caprolactam is then obtained by a series of distillation steps.

Please add the following brief description of the drawing at page 4, line 25 of the specification.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 illustrates an embodiment of the disclosed process involving the distillation of crude caprolactam to form purified caprolactam.

Fig. 2 illustrates an embodiment of the disclosed process with a cyclization effluent from which  $\text{NH}_3$ ,  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$  and  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  have been removed.